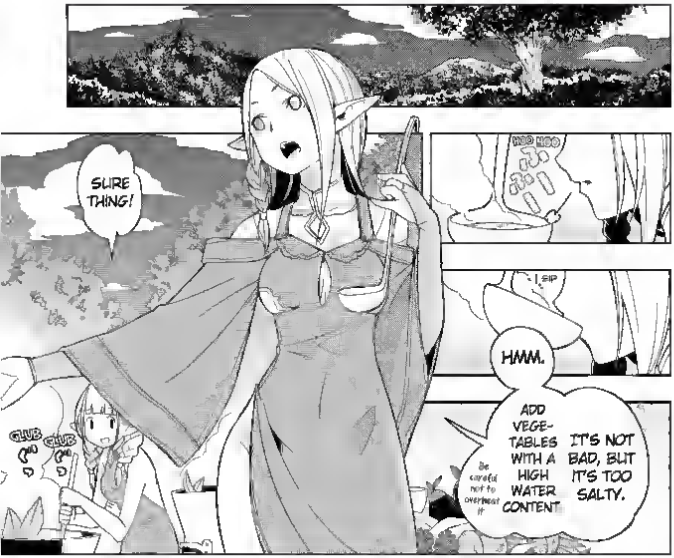

SURE THING!
SIP
HMM.
ADD VEGE-TABLES WITH A HIGH WATER CONTENT.
Be careful not to overheat it.
IT'S NOT BAD, BUT IT'S TOO SALTY.
CLUB
CLUB

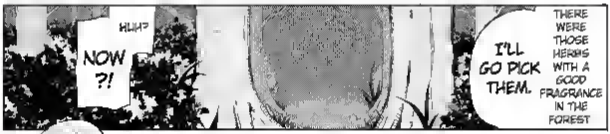
YOU'RE THE BEST MAGICIAN AND CULINARY EXPERT IN THE FOREST!
YOU NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE, FARDANIA!
HMPH
フン
FLATTERY WILL GET YOU NOTHING, YOU KNOW.

MM!
IT HAS MORE BODY AND TASTES EVEN BETTER!

BUBBLE
BUBBLE
THIS SOUP...
ITS AROMA ISN'T QUITE GOOD ENOUGH...
I KNOW!

UH-HUH THANKS

EVERYONE IN THE ELF FOREST RESPECTS YOU.
IT'S TRUE! YOU NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE, FARIANA!


I'LL GO PICK THEM.
THERE WERE THOSE HERBS WITH A GOOD FRAGRANCE IN THE FOREST
HUH?
NOW ?!

...OH, GOOD GRIEF. SHE'S TOO PROUD OR TO BE EXACT...
...BUT WHEN IT COMES TO COOKING, SHE CAN'T STOP HERSELF.
SHE'S SO SMART, AND HER MAGIC IS TOP-NOTCH...

I'LL BE BACK BEFORE NIGHT.
Really...?
UH, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
THIS IS FOR LUNCH.

FOUND THEM!
RUSTLE

MM, THAT'S A GOOD DISH PERFECT...
THIS WILL MAKE THE FRAGRANCE

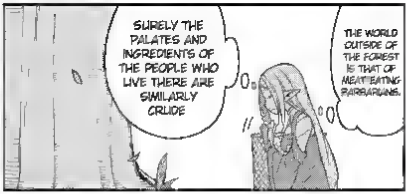
YOU'RE THE BEST CULINARY EXPERT IN THE FOREST!

THE BEST IN THE FOREST, IS IT...
PICK PICK
THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.
I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANYONE BEST ME AT COOKING...
PICK
PICK

...AND IN-GREDIENTS I DON'T KNOW...
...IS A WHOLE WORLD I'VE NEVER SEEN...
OUTSIDE OF THIS FOREST...

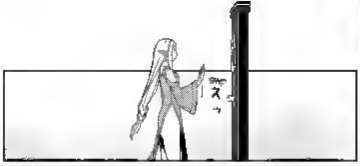
BZZ
MAGIC ...!!

.. I'M KIDDING MYSELF.


SURELY THE PALATES AND INGREDIENTS OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE ARE SIMILARLY CRUDE
THE WORLD OUTSIDE OF THE FOREST IS THAT OF MEAT-EATING BARBARIANS.

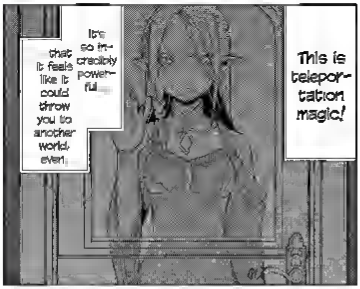
WHIRL
INTRUD-ERS IN THE FOREST ?!

...HUH?



CRACKLE
BUT WHO LEFT THIS HERE, AND HOW...?
IT'S CLEARLY NOT OF THE FOREST.

!


This is teleportation magic!
It's so incredibly powerful...
that it feels like it could throw you to another world, even.

Why didn't anyone notice it?
I have to go back and tell Papa...

A DOOR...?

A DOOR TO THE WORLD OUTSIDE...

.....

What I really wanted to see was the outside world.
That was my excuse...
BEFORE I RETURN, MAYBE I'LL SEE WHO THESE INTRUDERS ARE...
GRIP

...would greatly change my life.
That one step...
PULL

—had no way of knowing.
KA-CHAK
JINGLE
But at the time, I still...

3rd dish Tofu Steak

ONCE EVERY SEVEN DAYS, THE DOOR CONNECTS TO YOUR WORLD
It's that day today is it...
ON THAT DAY, I OPEN MY RESTAURANT AS THE "RESTAURANT TO ANOTHER WORLD."

WELCOME TO "WESTERN RESTAURANT NEKOYA"!
C'mon in!

WHAT IS THIS PLACE...?
JUST...
...A HUMAN'S RESTAURANT
NEKOYA...?

A human restaurant...
PERK

WELL...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW IT ALL WORKS, MYSELF!
That's a problem in itself

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE IT APPEARS HERE AND THERE RANDOMLY ON YOUR SIDE

THERE'S ONLY ONE DOOR ON THIS SIDE.

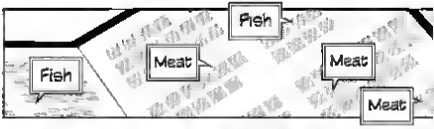
SEEING AS YOU'RE HERE ALREADY, WON'T YOU STAY FOR A BITE TO EAT?
HOW ABOUT IT?

I stayed
CHITTER
CHITTER
YAMMER
YAMMER
Mmm
Hello
Mm hmm hmm
...a human
THAT'S THE STUFF?
A dwarf
My first time seeing one.
A lizard-man?
Mmm.
JUST WHAT ARE THEY EATING?
UMM...
IT REEKS...
GLARE
Thank you for your patience!
HERE'S A MENU!
AS IF THAT WASN'T BAD ENOUGH, A DEMON WAIT-RESS?
WHAT AN AWFUL ATMOS-PHERE!
STAAARE
?

Then...

...FISH, MILK, OR EGGS, I'LL TAKE THAT.

IF YOU HAVE A DISH THAT CONTAINS NO MEAT...



IF YOU DON'T THEN I DON'T PARTICULARLY NEED ANYTHING
I'LL SEE MYSELF OUT.
EH?
ERM .
PLEASE WAIT A MINUTE!
DASH
Do we have a dish that doesn't use food?
Huh?? Is that a riddle?
Maybe that was a little too mean.
Mm?
Mm-hmm.
It's a restaurant in the outside world.
Who knows if they have anything an elf can eat in the first place?

I see there's no reason for me to delve any further into the outside world.

The waitress isn't coming back.

SCRAPE

If we're not going to use meat or fish...

GRIN

DO YOU MIND LEAVING THE EXACT MENU UP TO ME?

IF THAT'S OKAY WITH YOU, JUST SIT TIGHT FOR A MINUTE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER!

.....

HUH?

WH..
H-HEY
HEY! WAIT!
YES?
STRUT
STRUT
STRUT
STRUT
JUST SO ...IF THERE'S YOU EVEN KNOW... A TINY BIT...
...MIXED INTO MY FOOD FOR FLAVORING OR SO ON, I CAN'T EAT IT!
Do you understand?!
...
I see
THAT'S NO PROBLEM, MISS!
IT SOUNDS LIKE SOUPS ARE OUT.
I use bonito stock.
OTHER THAN THAT...
I CAN SERVE YOU A MEAL THAT FITS YOUR NEEDS!
RELEASE
If you say so...
...ALL RIGHT.
GOOD.
I highly doubt that a human...
...is capable of making a truly meatless dish though.
STRUT
STRUT

...BUT I'LL DO HIM THE FAVOR OF TASTING IT, AS THE NUMBER ONE CULINARY EXPERT IN THE FOREST.
And if he tries to fool me, I'll give him a piece of my mind.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE INTENDS TO SERVE ME...
Our weapons and magic are for protecting the forest
To we "pure elves," guardians of the unsullied forest...
...beasts of the forest are dear companions.
Obviously, their meat, milk, eggs, and soon are not ingredients.
I wouldn't call anything that uses them "food."
...YET AT THIS RESTAURANT...
YAMMER
YAMMER
CHATTER
CHATTER

STARE
じー…
I COULD NEVER EAT SUCH A THING.
じゅる
DROOL
IS THAT GROUND MEAT?
THAT ONE EVEN USES COW'S MILK.
THAT'S BIRD EGG OVER THERE...
THESE ARE ALL BARBARIC DISHES.
HN
They...
Yet the diners...
AAAA
あ
GRIT

MMM
THEY'RE EATING IT AS IF THE TASTE IS EXQUISITE ...!!
hee hee
SNORT
Soooo
gooood !!
CLENCH

HNG!
I can't except it!
I can't!!
BLAZE
BLAZE
HERE YOU ARE!

HUH?

SIZZZZ

...WHAT IS IT?

IT'S TOFU STEAK!

TNK

Tofu Steak

The grated daikon and ponzu sauce is a Nagoya specialty made with vegetarian kanzu stock. A popular menu item with young women.

Ingredients: Firm tofu, perilla leaf, spring onion, grated daikon, carrots, potatoes

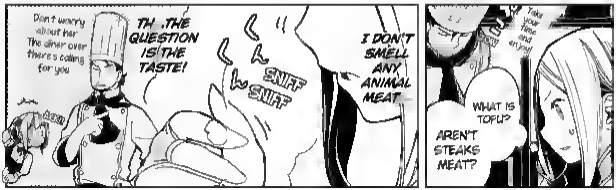
S...

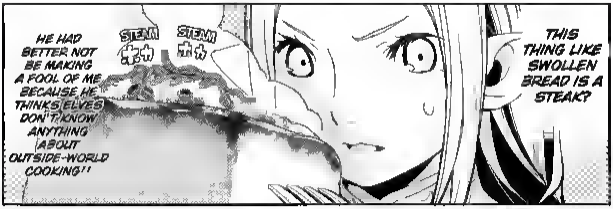
STEAK ...?

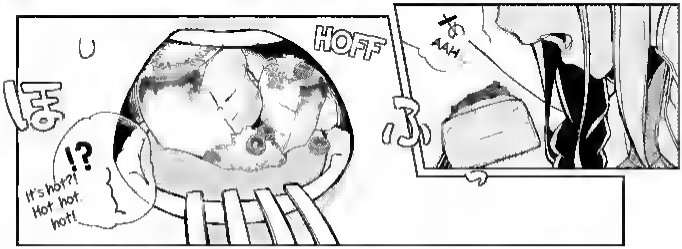
SIZZZ

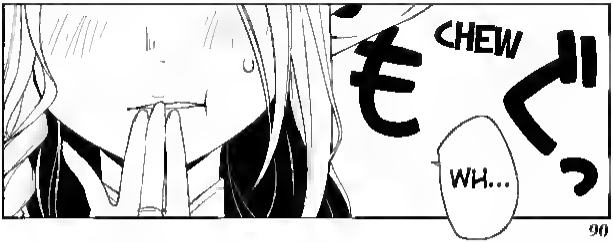
THAT'S RIGHT!

TRY IT WITH THE GRATED DAIKON AND PONZU DRESSING!


Don't worry about her. The dinner over there's calling for you
TH .THE QUESTION IS THE TASTE!
SNIFF SNIFF
I DON'T SMELL ANY ANIMAL MEAT
Take your time and enjoy!
WHAT IS TOFU?
AREN'T STEAKS MEAT?


HE HAD BETTER NOT BE MAKING A FOOL OF ME BECAUSE HE THINKS ELVES DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT OUTSIDE-WORLD COOKING!!
STEAM
STEAM
THIS THING LIKE SWOLLEN BREAD IS A STEAK?


HOFF
!?
It's hot?! Hot hot hot!
AAH


もぐっ
CHEW
WH...

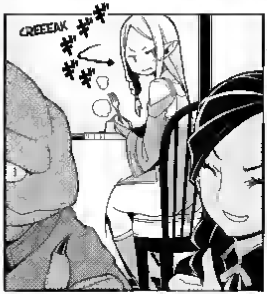
WH... WHAT IS THIS?

I'VE NEVER EATEN ANYTHING LIKE IT ...!

DUN

OMM
あむ。

TING


CREEEAK

THIS LEVEL OF PERFECTION IS INCREDIBLE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!

KIN!

WHAT IS THIS DISH...?

WARM "TOFU" SPREADING OUT ON THE INSIDE.
FLUFFY
ふわ

A NICE-SMELLING SEAR ON THE OUTSIDE.
SIZZLE
CROWNED

はもっ!
OMF!

NOSTALGIC ...?
LICK

HMFF
ほむ
...AND SOMEHOW NOSTAL-GIC...
LIKE THE TEXTURE, THE TASTE IS SOFT.

THIS TASTE...

GASP

That's what it is!

IT'S ALMOST...

...MOTHER'S TASTE...!

THIS SAUCE BRINGS OUT THE FLAVOR OF THE TOFU.

BUT THERE'S MORE TO IT.

A PROMINENT CITRUS FLAVOR AND A STRONG SALTINESS

STICK

PLUS SOMETHING THAT SMELLS OF THE SEA BRINGING THE FLAVORS INTO HARMONY

I THINK HE CALLED IT "PONZU."

DIP

It's likely "something" that's flavor was increased by drying it... ...like the dried mushrooms my mother taught me about ages ago.

Yeah!

Okay, Fantastic!

I don't know what that something is...

...CHANGES IT TO A SINGLE COMPLETE TASTE!

BUBBLE

BUBBLE

ADDING TWO FLAVORS, CITRUS AND SALTY, TO A SAVORY SOUP RICH WITH THAT "SOME-THING"...

The grating of this snow-like vegetable ...make that has the sourness and simple-tasting bitter-ness. tofu vivid.

And this ponzu and...

The herb's strong aroma and sourness activate the aftertaste.

SS
OMF!
PILE
!!
MMF
COMPARED TO THAT STRONG SEASON-ING...
MNCH MNCH
もぐ! もぐ!
...THE RICE IS FAINTLY SWEET. IT GOES GREAT TOGE-THER!
IT WAS SEASONED WITH AN EYE FOR THE BALANCE OF THE ENTIRE MEAL...
Girl...
WARM
Mi'dear...
WARM
!
THERE ISN'T A SINGLE COMPROMISE, EVEN WITH THE SEASONING OF THE POTATOES AND VEGETABLES ON THE SIDE!

I can't believe a human...
...could have such skill...!
This formidable sense of perfection...

I've spent my life doing house-and work. came to be praised as a great cook in the forest
I lost my mother to illness thirty years ago

...that I could never lose to a human.
But at the very least, I was sure...
I'm not satisfied with myself as I am now.

Humans have such short lives.
They're born one after another and disappear so quickly

I thought they could never have high-class culture like elves do
WHUSH

But I was wrong.

Cuisine that was created outside of the forest.

I know it now.

This cuisine is clearly...

...beyond that of the elves !!

BITE

もぐ もぐ!

CHEW

CHEW

It pains me to say this... it really does...

But... it was honestly delicious ...!!

THANKS TO THIS "TASTE"—

MY LIFE HAS CHANGED...

CHEEEERS!

ALL DONE!

IF I SAID IT WAS BAD AFTER I CLEANED MY PLATE, I'D JUST BE A SORE LOSER.

H... HUMAN COOKING ISN'T HALF BAD.

CHATTER わい
CHATTER わい

BUT KNOW THIS!

HA HA HA!

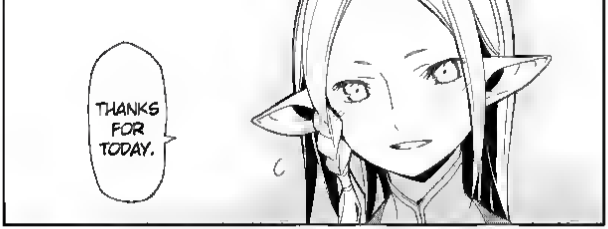
I AM NOT ABOUT TO LET ELVES LOSE TO YOU!

Oh dear, She's a tsundere!

Yup tsundere

FLINCH

UM...


THANKS FOR TODAY.

I'LL COME AGAIN.
THANK YOU!

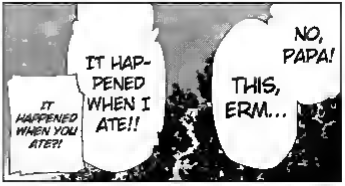
WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR NEXT VISIT!
SHUT
パタン

FARDA-NIAAA!
—oh. So it disappears after you leave
FP

DID SOMEONE MAKE YOU CRY?!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOUR FACE IS ALL RED!
BLUSH
HUH?!

PAPA...
WE CAME LOOKING FOR YOU WHEN YOU DIDN'T RETURN
!?
FARDANIA...

PAPA
GRIP
A NEW KIND OF MUSHROOM?! I'VE TOLD YOU NOT TO EAT JUST ANYTHING YOU SEE...


NO, PAPA!
THIS, ERM...
IT HAPPENED WHEN I ATE!!
IT HAPPENED WHEN YOU ATE?!

SWISH
YOU'RE LEAVING?!
YES.
I'M GOING TO SEE THE WORLD

I'M...
...LEAVING ON A JOURNEY
WHA—?!

I'LL FEED YOU DELICIOUS CUISINE, TOO, PAPA!

—I CAN'T JUST LET US KEEP LOSING!

CUI-SINE ?!

SNIFF

BUT...

YOU'RE STILL TOO YOUNG, FARDA-NIA!

OH, PLEASE I'LL BE FINE!

YOU'RE ONLY 130 YEARS OLD!

—THAT'S RIGHT. I'M GOING TO COOK DELICIOUS DISHES!

You can't, sir!!

Fardania!! At least take Papa with you!!

THEY'LL BE EVEN BETTER THAN THE RESTAURANT TO ANOTHER WORLD!

Till next time!

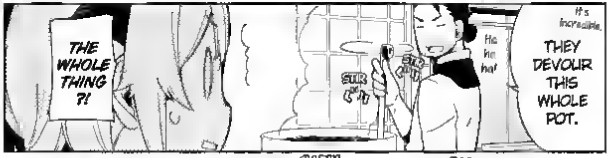
AH!
THE MOON...

ALETTA
WAS THAT THE LAST DINER?
YES, MASTER!
GOT IT.

...THAT I HAVE NO SENSE OF WHAT TIME IT IS
IT'S ALWAYS SO BRIGHT INSIDE THE RESTAURANT

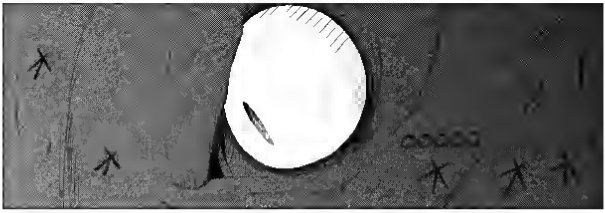
GA HA HA HA HA
SINCE I HAVE TO CONSIDER MY OTHER CUSTOMERS, TOO...
...I HAVE THEM COME AT A DIFFERENT TIME
THEY CAN REALLY TUCK IT AWAY.
I SEE...?

ALL RIGHT.
...SO CLEAR THE TABLES FOR ME.
ANOTHER DINER WILL BE COMING SOON...
Just one more!
THE LAST DINER...?


THE WHOLE THING ?!
STIR
STIR
Ha ha ha!
It's incredible.
THEY DEVOUR THIS WHOLE POT.

CLUNK CLUNK CLUNK CLUNK CLUNK
WHAT KIND OF DINER ARE THEY ..?

FWOOOO

ゴ

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